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Ontario Human Rights Commission

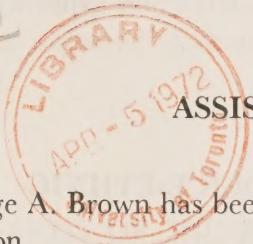
Government  
Publications

# Special Announcements

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## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Mr. George A. Brown has been appointed Assistant Director of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Brown joined the staff in the autumn of 1968, after completing a study on "Community Tensions and Conflict Among Youths of Different Ethnic and Racial Backgrounds in Downtown Toronto". He was appointed Administrator of the Age Discrimination Act Section in January, 1969. Mr. Brown has been Administrator of the Toronto Regional Office of the Commission since September, 1970.

Before joining the Commission, Mr. Brown was Research Assistant with the Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Central Planning Unit, and with the Development Finance Corporation. Between 1963 and 1966, he was Assistant Administrator of the University College Hospital of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica.

He is a graduate of the University of British Columbia in Political Science and Economics and holds an M.A. in Public Administration from Carleton University, an M.A. in Economics from the University of Toronto and a Master of Social Work degree in Community Organization and Development from the School of Social Work of the University of Toronto.

## COMMISSION'S CONCERN WITH NORTHERN GUIDES HAS ADMINISTRATIVE RESULTS

The Commission's northern Ontario regional office undertook an intensive program of field trips last October and November as an expression of its concern with the severe problems faced by hunting and fishing guides, most of whom are Indians. The field trips were to ascertain in detail the nature of the problems.

When it became apparent that the Department of Labour could render assistance, officials of the Employment Standards Branch, the Industrial Training Branch and the Commission met with twenty-two representatives of the guides in Thunder Bay. Matters brought up included whether the guides are self-employed or in the employ of the resort operators, overtime pay for overnight work, absence of minimum wage coverage, licensing procedures and ratio of tourists to guides.

A committee set up at the first meeting has reviewed the Employment Standards legislation as it applies to the grievances of the guides in order to draw up recommendations for amendments. It has also given consideration to training programs and certification of guides, the area of the Industrial Training Branch. The committee also examined allegations of racial discrimination in camps by tourists and some camp owners. The Commission is developing an information program to be made available in Cree and Ojibway as well as English, to advise guides of their rights under provincial laws.

### **COMMUNITY WORK FOR BETTER POLICE-ETHNIC COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Arising from the Commission's concern over reports of poor relations between police in Toronto and ethnic communities, particularly the black community, the Commission enlisted the cooperation of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department to improve communications and hence relations.

A Commission officer is working with Community Relations Officers of the Police Department, with the emphasis on certain sections of the city. The police representatives are being introduced to various black groups, where they are given an opportunity to explain the role of the police in law enforcement and, at the same time, to obtain first-hand information on the immigrants' perception of the police, in the framework of the immigrants' own cultural background.

The Commission welcomes the cooperation of the Police Department as an indication that they too appreciate the ultimate usefulness of bridging whatever communication gaps exist among Toronto's diverse cultural and racial groups, which is the other aspect of this community project.

The Commission is also planning with the Police Department participation in divisional staff seminars. These are held on Sundays, so that all officers will have an opportunity to attend and exchange impressions.

The police training college has invited the Commission to conduct seminars on police-community group relations during March and April.

### **O.P.P. SEEKS INDIAN CONSTABLES IN NORTH**

The Ontario Provincial Police in northern Ontario are seeking qualified Indians as constables. The effort is part of their drive to improve their relations with the native people, in concert with the liaison committees on which they sit with local Indian bands.

The Commission encouraged the formation of the committees and has been asked by the O.P.P. to assist in recruiting constables. The latter task is being carried out by the Thunder Bay human rights officer who speaks Ojibway, working with an Indian O.P.P. constable presently on the force. Together they make field trips to reserves and Indian communities, where they explain citizens' rights and law enforcement in terms of the Indians' problems and bring information about the O.P.P. openings.

It is expected that upgrading training will be provided if needed for promising candidates.

## **BOARDS OF INQUIRY: TWO REPORTS, TWO PROSECUTIONS**

The Commission recently received two reports arising from two public Boards of Inquiry into complaints of discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code, and announced two court prosecutions as a result of non-compliance with Ministerial Orders pursuant to two previous reports.

In the report on the hearing into the complaint of Mrs. Bonnie Gore of Ottawa that she was refused a secretarial position by the Ottawa Separate School Board because she is not a Roman Catholic, the Chairman of the Board of Inquiry, Dean W. S. Tarnopolsky, University of Windsor Faculty of Law, upheld the complaint. He recommended in his report that the Separate School Board write a letter of apology to Mrs. Gore and declare its intention to abide by the provisions of the Code in its future employment practices.

The second Report resulted from the hearing on the complaint of Mrs. Daisy Anderson of Ottawa, that she was denied rental of a self-contained apartment by Mr. and Mrs. G. Mascioli, because of her race and colour. Mrs. Anderson is a black Canadian of Jamaican origin. Dean R. S. Mackay, of the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law, the Chairman of the Board of Inquiry, upheld the allegation and recommended that Mr. and Mrs. Mascioli send letters of assurance of compliance with the Code to Mrs. Anderson and the Commission, that they post a Code card on housing in a prominent place in their apartment house, and that they compensate Mrs. Anderson for increased transportation costs to her place of work and, for her daughter, to her school, from the date of the complaint to the date of the hearing, in the amount of \$200.

Two other Reports have now reached the prosecution stage. Both are cases in Windsor. A report by Dean W. S. Tarnopolsky found that Victor Bouzide had denied accommodation to John R. Harris, a Canadian Black, because of his race and colour. When Mr. Bouzide did not comply with the recommendations made, a Ministerial Order was issued in an effort to obtain compliance. When no undertaking was made by Mr. Bouzide, the Commission began prosecution proceedings.

The same cause and sequence of events have led to initiation of prosecution proceedings against Mrs. Maria Gross following a board of inquiry chaired by Professor D. E. Sanders, University of Windsor Faculty of Law, on a complaint by Miss Dolores McKenzie, a black Jamaican, now resident in Toronto.

